

# SECOND ALEXANDRINA WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL

23-26 April 2010  
OPEN-AIR THEATER

Cyprus – Egypt – France – Greece – Italy – Romania







With this 2nd World Music Festival, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina is bringing you a selection of sounds and instruments that can be found around the Mediterranean, and at the same time emphasizes the undeniable influence the Mediterranean musical culture has had on Europe and the rest of the world.

The Festival hosts bands and ensembles that represents some of the oldest musical traditions found around the shores of the Mediterranean. From Greek and Cypriot Folk music and dance, to southern Italian folk, and from traditional Egyptian folk to the folkloric songs and dances of Romania, this festival promises to be the 2nd and surely not the last to open a window on the variety of sounds, instruments, styles and repertoires of music the people of the Mediterranean have preserved and developed until today.

Unlike any other music festival, Alexandria World Music Festival 2010 will present forms of traditional music that will provide the audience with more than just concerts to listen to; it puts forth cultures and musical worlds to be discovered. What makes these forms of music particular, is for instance how they are learned and preserved, mainly through oral transmission. The instruments used are also not the same as those typically found in western classical orchestras. These forms of music are also historically linked to rituals and particular social contexts of the community it belongs to, such as the traditions of the Deserts and Bedouin areas in the Southern Valley of Egypt, or the folk songs of Southern Italy and France. These forms of music also give special regard to improvisation and spontaneity which are also very important characteristics of Arabic music. But one of the most striking features of traditional forms of music is their intimate link with dance. Indeed, the character of the music this festival presents is not meant for passive contemplation, but active participation, since the rhythms and melodies that will be presented will inevitably stir a compelling need to move, dance and participate, and this is also what makes this festival so special.

The main theme of this festival is the unity within the diversity of music found across Mediterranean courtiers, through the performances of bands such as Les Poulettes from France, El-Kaffafa from Egypt, Francesco Sossio from Italy, Cyprida Voice Limassol from Cyprus, Kyklos Group for Folk Art from Greece, and a collection of young Egyptian groups.

These are all bands that show great love and respect for their musical heritage and manage to keep their traditions alive and vibrant through their own inputs in composition and performance. This festival will also be the place where the audience participate through dance in forms of music that contain real and powerful emotions that cannot leave anyone unmoved.

For the first time, this year young Egyptian groups will present songs inspired by traditional Egyptian music in an attempt to present different varieties to the audience of the festival.

Finally, this festival will also give a platform for the unexpected, where instruments, rhythms, and melodies completely unknown to the public will be seen and heard and where surprising collaborations are bound to take place because of the strong musical culture shared by the people of the Mediterranean.

Maestro Sherif Mohie Eldin  
Director of the Arts Center

Friday, 23 April 2010

### Opening Ceremony

#### **El-Kaffafa Group (Egypt)**

BA Plaza, 7:00 pm.

#### **Cyprida Voice Limassol & Despina Olympiou (Cyprus)**

BA Plaza, 8:00 pm.

#### **Ressala (Egypt)**

BA Plaza, 9:00 pm.

Ticket: EGP 10.- for all Concerts.

#### **El-Kaffafa Group (Egypt)**

**BA Plaza, 7:00 pm.**

El-Kaffafa group participated in several festivals and competitions organized by the Cultural Palaces for spontaneous and folkloric Arts. The group participates in wedding ceremonies in the villages of Upper Egypt as part of the traditional heritage of this area. Their performance reflects the inherited traditional music found in the Egyptian deserts and Bedouin areas.

The group participated in several festivals and traditional events, such as: Lialy El-Mahrousa Festival, the celebrations of the Holy month of Ramadan in Assiut Governorate, the pilgrimage festival in Safaga, the Spontaneous and Folkloric Arts Festival, the celebrations of the national day of the Assiut Governorate, Qena Folkloric Arts Festival, the New Valley Governorate Arts Festival.



Friday, 23 April 2010

**Cyprida Voice Limassol & Despina Olympiou (Cyprus)**  
**BA Plaza, 8:00 pm.**

The Cyprida Voice Limassol music ensemble was founded by the musician/arranger Admitos Pitsillides in 2008. It is formed from a mixture of musicians who have different musical backgrounds i.e. Folk, Classical and Contemporary. They started to present their work in various festivals in Cyprus and abroad, with the aim to present Greek music, giving emphasis to the Cypriot side, through their own way of orchestration and performance.

The repertoire of the ensemble comprises of Cypriot folk and contemporary songs, as well as songs for the most important Greek composers.

The ensemble has co-operated occasionally with many other Cypriot artists and very important singers from Greece.

They have appeared in concerts and festivals in Cyprus, and during 2010 they are planning a tour around Europe, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment the Republic of Cyprus.

**Members of the ensemble:**

- |                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Admitos Pitsillidis | Guitar/Vocals/Orchestration |
| • Rodos Panayiotou    | Percussion/Rhythm Patterns  |
| • Theodoros Krassides | Flute                       |
| • Evgenia Karapatakes | Cello                       |
| • Svetlana Todorova   | Accordion                   |
| • Grigoris Ioannou    | Lute                        |
| • Evrypidis Dikaeos   | Percussion                  |
| • Antonia Tsolaki     | Bass                        |

Special guest  
Despina Olympiou



Friday, 23 April 2010

**Ressala (Egypt)**  
**BA Plaza, 9:00 pm.**

Ressala, a band that was created back in 2001, in Alexandria, by a number of talented and inspired young artists. Their challenge was to create a collection of songs that prove their ability to interact and cooperate as a band in spite of their different musical backgrounds. These differences resulted in a special genre of songs and music in which they artistically perform songs with Egyptian lyrics accompanied by experimental and creative music.

The Band members communicate their ideas and hopes freely through a set of songs that reflect the spirit of the band and consequently of the Egyptian youth. Therefore, the name "Ressala" (Message) best represents the band.

At the beginning, the band performed in cultural centers in Alexandria. This was followed by concerts in the Opera House in Cairo and other venues in Cairo and Alexandria as well as in South Africa, Lebanon and Jordan.

**Ressala consists of 7 members:**

- Nour Ashour (Saxophone);
- Amr Galal (Drums);
- Ahmed Hani (Bass Guitar);
- Shams (Percussions);
- Fady Badr (Keyboard);
- Mohamed Adel (Guitar);
- Moustafa Saad (Vocal);



■ **Saturday, 24 April 2010**

**Alexandrina World Music Festival (II)**

**Networking Platform**

VIP Lounge, 5:00 pm.

**Kyklos Group for Folk Art (Greece)**

BA Plaza, 7:00 pm.

**Les Poulettes (France)**

BA Plaza, 8:00 pm.

**Salalem (Egypt)**

BA Plaza, 9:00 pm.

Ticket: EGP 10.- for all Concerts.

**Networking Platform**

**BA Conference Center, VIP Lounge, 5:00 pm.**

A space for local and international musicians to meet, interact, exchange ideas and convene with Cultural and Artistic Institutions as well.

Free Entry for Festival Participants (With Festival Pass)

Local Musicians are invited to Participate in the Networking Platform  
(registration required)



ALEXANDRINA  
WORLD  
MUSIC  
FESTIVAL

Saturday, 24 April 2010

**Kyklos Group for Folk Art (Greece)**  
**Greek Memories, Dances, Sounds and Colors**  
**BA Plaza, 7:00 pm.**

“Kyklos” dancing group will present to the audience of Alexandria traditional Greek dances from East Romelia and West Macedonia.

Greek people of East Romelia arrived as refugees in 1906 and settled in a number of villages in Northern Greece. Their region, East Romelia, was in Northern Thrace which is today part of Bulgaria. Kavakli was the main city surrounded by 12 smaller all having almost the same costumes, dances and habits. The main traditional music instrument of this area is the bag pipe giving a very special essence to the melodies and dances from East Romelia.

In the second part of the performance the audience will have the opportunity to meet the local dancing tradition of the western part of Macedonia and especially the region of Aridaia. Aridaia is situated very close to the place where Alexander the Great was born and raised. The traditional dances of the area under the sound of the clarinet are slow in the beginning, with a ritualistic edge and they continue with a faster rhythm in the end which makes such dances very alive.



EMBASSY OF GREECE  
CAIRO



Ministry of Culture  
and Tourism of Greece



■ Saturday, 24 April 2010

**Les Pouettes (France)**  
**BA Plaza, 8:00 pm.**

Les Pouettes presents an all female quintet, acoustic instruments and polyphonic singing. The group seduces us with their melodies and have an ever-growing Public.

They journey inside their own compositions, and each song suggests a different mood: from joyful to politically aware; from an invitation to dance to a hymn (homage) to "the siesta"!

Their musical influences, colored with diversity, make this a really personal repertory with a collection of very unique songs. Lively and generous, with realistic and poetic lyrics, this gathering expresses, from a women's point of view, its ideas on today's society.

Since 2001, Les Pouettes continue their adventure with more than 250 concerts under their belts! It's their energy and complicity which create their undeniable strength when they come together on stage.

**Website :** <http://les-pouettes.com>

**Myspace :** <http://myspace.com/les-pouettesdixdeder>

**Facebook :** <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Les-Pouettes/47515448634>



■ Saturday, 24 April 2010

**Salalem (Egypt)**  
**BA Plaza, 9:00 pm.**

Formed in 2005, Salalem's songs are the type that have no specific genre, due to the diverse influences on the band members and the unusual formation that depends mainly on guitars, the outcome becomes a mix of everything, and in the end simple funky tunes are produced to the audience, fused with sarcastically humorous Egyptian lyrics which is what is special about Salalem; the sarcastic perspective on life.

**Members of the band:**

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| • Mohamed Ali (Walkman)    | Guitar, Vocals         |
| • Osama Saad El Din (Oss)  | Guitar, Backing Vocals |
| • Amr Sayed Gioushy (Solo) | Guitar                 |
| • Mohammed Jamal (Jimi)    | Lead Vocal             |
| • Ezz Shahwan (El General) | Bass                   |
| • Hany Bedeir              | Percussion             |
| • Sherif Nabil             | Drums                  |



**Sunday, 25 April 2010**

### **Alexandrina World Music Festival (II)**

#### **Francesco Sossio Band (Italy)**

BA Plaza, 7:00 pm.

#### **Massar Egbari (Egypt)**

BA Plaza, 8:00 pm.

Ticket: EGP 10.- for both Concerts.

#### **Francesco Sossio Band (Italy)**

**BA Plaza, 7:00 pm.**

Francesco Sossio Sacchetti was born in Gravina (Puglia), a small city in the south of Italy. He started to study the saxophone at the age of fourteen.

In 1997, he went to Naples to study at the Academy of Music "S. Pietro a Majella" where he was awarded a diploma under the guidance of the maestro Andrea Pace.

From 1997 to 2006, he lived in Naples where he worked with many bands of different musical genres: jazz, ska, reggae, blues, classical. He took part in the big band "S. Pietro a Majella" as a baritone directed by the maestro Pietro Condorelli. He also played many times with the Nova Amadeus symphony-lyric Orchestra in Rome.

From 2003 to 2007, he played with the maestro Enzo Avitabile all around the world during the International Jazz Festival of Montreal, Womad Festival, Sziget Festival Budapest, Roskilde Festival.

In 2007, he produced his first own work and project; Dry Wall.

'Dry wall' is a historical and musical research based on works, songs and social struggles in Puglia.

Dry Wall is a 45-minute documentary that contains songs, photos, documents and short interviews produced by students from Puglia, in addition to a CD that contains 6 songs; one for each province representing the original themes and elements of the old traditions.

Using the universal language of music, it has been possible to create a wide informative and document offering the possibility of saving the unwritten history, long fixed in the memory of our elders who are, at the same time, witnesses and characters of the 20th century.

The title: 'Dry wall' is a symbol of our land. It aims to highlight the relation between the lords and the workers in this kind of society.

The themes of emigration, unemployment, and suffering belong to the past, and are brought to life again thanks to these songs and traditions.

Thus comes the idea of a show with music, songs, videos, lights, sounds, colours that can create the real atmosphere of times past and relate it to the present.

In 2008, Francesco Sossio played his music in several international film festivals such as Milano Film Festival and Salento Film Festival.

In May 2008, he took part in the Biennale dei Giovani Artisti del Mediterraneo in Bari and in Skopje.

■ Sunday, 25 April 2010

In May 2009, Francesco Sossio played at Castel Raniero Folk Festival and Festival International de Musique Universitaire (FIMU) in Belfort. In July 2009, he won the Festival Andriese di Musica Giovane. In July, he won the Folkontest in Casale Monferrato and played at the Folkest in Spilimbergo, at Musica W Festival in Castellina Marittima, at Piedigrotta - la festa di Napoli and in several cultural events in Italy. In December of the same year, he won the World Music Contest Premio Andrea Parodi in Porto Torres.

**Members of the band:**

- Francesco Sossio Sax
- Ciaramelle Clarinet / Vox
- Loredana Savino / Vox
- Tommaso Colafiglio Acoustic Guitar
- Giorgio Albanese Accordion
- Leo Zagariello Acoustic Bass
- Michele Marrulli Frame Drums / Percussion
- Giuseppe Longo Percussion
- Mirella Rinaldi Video-Projections



Sunday, 25 April 2010

**Massar Egbari (Egypt)**  
**BA Plaza, 8:00 pm.**

Massar Egbari was founded in 2005 by 4 musicians, Ayman Massoud (Keyboards), Hani El Dakkak (Guitar & Lead Vocal), Ahmed Hafez (Bass Guitar), and Tamer Attallah (Drums). Mahmoud Siam (Guitar) and Mohamed Nabil (Percussion) joined the band in 2008.

The Band members created that sarcastic name since they felt that the society is trying to impose its power over people, starting from their childhood until the day they die. This social power wants to stereotype everything including the way we think and feel, leaving no space for creation and innovation.

In 2007, Massar Egbari started its international musical career as it participated in 2 international festivals: Malta Arts Festival in Valletta-Malta, and Barisa Rock Festival in Istanbul – Turkey (a three-days festival, 62 bands from more than 6 countries). In 2008, the band participated in the Biennial of Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean (Puglia 2008) in Bari – Italy.

In 2009, Massar Egbari was invited as a special guest in the Biennale of Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean in Skopje, Macedonia, and they gave 6 performances on different stages in the city. The band also participated in Festival Adriatico Mediterraneo in Ancona in Italy in 2009. In 2010 Massar Egbari participated in Sauti Za Busara Music Festival in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

During the 2nd World Music Festival, the band will present re-arrangements of Egyptian Traditional songs, in addition to some of the band's original songs and instrumentals.

**Members of the band:**

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| • Ayman Massoud  | Keyboards           |
| • Hani El-Dakkak | Guitar / Lead Vocal |
| • Ahmed Hafez    | Bass Guitar         |
| • Tamer Attallah | Drums               |
| • Mahmoud Siam   | Guitar              |
| • Mohamed Nabil  | Percussion          |



**Monday, 26 April 2010**

**Alexandrina World Music Festival (II)**

**Folk Ensemble of The Alba District (Romania)**

BA Plaza, 7:00 pm.

**Wust El-Balad (Egypt)**

BA Plaza, 8:00 pm.

Ticket: EGP 20.- for both Concerts.

**Folk Ensemble of The Alba District (Romania)**

**BA Plaza, 7:00 pm.**

The Folk Ensemble of the Alba District are performing traditional music representing few territories in Romania, but most of their repertory is of songs from Transylvania, specially Alba. Our performance includes different styles like dance music, lullaby songs, ad libitum songs – DOINA, songs related to the work on the field and songs which talk about life, love and other feelings.

DOINA is a Romanian traditional ad libitum song, recently integrated in UNESCO World Patrimony. This is the most lyrical and dramatic song in their traditional music and its preservation has become necessary.

They use traditional instruments and traditional playing formulae, with violin, braci, double bass, accordion and flute de Pan— one of the eldest musical instruments in the world. The main singer, Roxana Reche, studied traditional music in high school and now she studies Musicology at Music Academy “Gheorghe Dima” in Cluj-Napoca.

The target of the Folk Ensemble of the Alba District is to preserve, harness and promote Romanian intangible cultural heritage and it works under the Center of Culture «Augustin Bena» Alba. During the past season, the ensemble took part in shows, festivals, competitions, master classes, festivals and traditional events. The Folk Ensemble is formed of a traditional orchestra, a dance ensemble, vocal and instrument players. They form the elite young generation of performers and they won major contests and folk festivals in their country and abroad: Roxana Reche is one of the best voices in Romania and Alexandru Pal (flute de Pan player) is one of the best disciples of Gheorghe Zamfir.





Monday, 26 April 2010

**Wust El-Balad (Egypt)  
BA Plaza, 8:00 pm.**

In 1999, two guys got together, formed a band, with 6 others and started realizing the dream. That is the basic story behind the Wust El Balad band.

Eight talented guys from all across the country joined together in Downtown, Cairo, forming one of the most successful bands in Egypt now. Coming from different musical backgrounds, each guy brought his own flavor to the group. Their story is as compelling as music itself.

**Beginning of the Dream**

The story began when Hany Adel, guitarist and vocalist and Ahmed Omran, Oud player and vocalist, formed Al-Far Al-Roumadi or The Grey Rat Band. The idea of this name was to recount the stories both heard and witnessed by the small rat that sneaks into many houses. To fulfill the dream, combining a diversity of sounds, the two began to look for more musicians.

Playing at traditional cafés, Hany and Omran made several acquaintances, Ismail Fawzy (Guitarist and vocalist) and Ihab Abdel Hamid (percussionist) were next to join. The addition of base guitarist Ahmed Omar, guitarist Asaad Nessim and percussionist Mohammed Gamal Aldin gave Wust El Balad a more rounded and eclectic sound, counterbalanced by the unique traditional oriental voice of Adham El Said, who added to Wust El Balad the missing spice.

Their first appearance was at the Opera House in the small theatre, jamming with Sameh Alazab's band, Nass Gedida or New People with only four songs. It was Sameh Alazab, who suggested the name Wust El Balad to represent a more inner and intimate meaning.

Their first appearance as Wust El Balad Band was at Al Mashrabeya Gallery. Since then, Wust El Balad Band has become a regular performer at most galleries, cultural centers, bars and sometimes special events and hotels.

Their vision was to reach the average person that cannot afford listening to their music or seeing them perform in bars or galleries. They were the first band to invade the streets of Cairo, – experiencing the most sensational audience of amazing concerts. They played in Al-Alfi Street to the local community during the French festival Les Francais aiment l'Egypte - and later traveled all round Egypt.

In collaboration with Goethe Cultural Institute, the mayor of Stuttgart invited Wust El Balad Band to perform in Germany; to their amazement, a thrilling audience of 10,000 was present.

Another outstanding performance was when Wust El-Balad Band participated in the Centennial Celebration of Heliopolis, Cairo sponsored by the First Lady of Egypt, Suzanne Mubarak. The residents of Heliopolis swarmed the venue.

**Members of the band:**

- |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| • Hany Adel             | Guitar / Vocal |
| • Ahmed Omran           | Oud / Vocal    |
| • Ismail Fawzy          | Guitar / Vocal |
| • Ihab Abdel Hamid      | Percussion     |
| • Ahmed Omar            | Base Guitar    |
| • Asaad Nessim          | Guitar         |
| • Mohammed Gamal El-Din | Percussion     |
| • Adham El-Said         | Vocal          |



# FESTIVAL TEAM

## **Director of the Arts Center**

Maestro Sherif Mohie Eldin

## **Coordinator**

Reem Kassem

## **Administrators**

Iman Hosny

Mona Mazhar

Rasha Eid

## **Head of Technical Unit**

Eng. Mohamed Taha

## **Documentary Film-maker**

Ahmed Nabil

## **Graphic Designer**

Asmaa Haggag

## **Technical Unit**

### **Stage Manager**

Mayada Saeed

### **Technicians**

Ahmed Aly

Ahmed Ezzat

Atef Sabry

Essam Fathy

Hamada Elkomi

Mohamed Farrag

Remon Kadry

Aly Mahmoud

Saeed Mohamed